Claims

1. A digital communication device comprising interconnected modules for processing and/or handling received data signals, **wherein** said interconnected modules each comprise means for monitoring (monitoring means) said data signal and for generating an output data signal having a predetermined signal status (squelched data signal) if said data signal is erroneous.

2. A digital communication device according to claim 1, comprising

   - a first I/O module for receiving a data signal and transmitting two copies of said data signal

   - at least two interconnected modules for processing said data signal, wherein a first group of said interconnected modules receiving said first copy of said data signal and a second group of said interconnected modules receiving said second copy of said data signal; and

   - a second I/O module for receiving said copies of the data signal transmitted by said interconnected modules, said second I/O module comprising means for monitoring said received copies of said data signal and transmitting those copy of said data signal which has not said predetermined signal status.

3. A communication device according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring means comprises a threshold detector.

4. A communication device according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring means comprises a frequency detector.

5. A communication device according to claim 1, which it is a cross-connect device and wherein said interconnected modules are switching matrix components.

6. A communication device according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined signal status of said output data signal is zero (low signal).

7. A communication device according to claim 2, wherein said first I/O module comprises means for monitoring (monitoring means) said received data signal and for generating an output data signal having a predetermined signal status (squelched data signal) if said received data signal is erroneous.

8. A communication device according to claim 2, wherein said first I/O module receives a copy of the data signal via a protection line and comprises means for monitoring (monitoring means) said received data signal supplied via a working line and for transmitting said copy of said data signal if said received data signal is erroneous.

9. A method for processing a data signal within a communication device, comprising the steps of:

- receiving an input data signal;

- checking the data signal whether it is erroneous;

- if the data signal is erroneous, generating a data signal with a predetermined signal status, and

- transmitting said data signal as an output data signal.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of verifying said data signal comprises the step of checking its frequency.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of verifying said data signal comprises the step of checking the signal level and comparing it with a threshold value.

12. A method according to claim 9, wherein said output data signal is checked whether it has said predetermined signal status, and if so, a copy of said input data signal is transmitted as said output data signal.